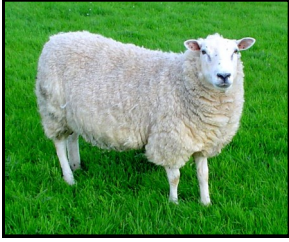


Ashe County Sheep and Goat Newsletter

Ashe County Center

January 2020



Inside This Issue

Marketing Plan

Updating Soil Reports

Lambing/
Kidding
Schedule



Contact Us

North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Ashe County Center
134 Government Circle, Suite 202
Jefferson, NC 28640

Phone: (336) 846-5850
Fax: (336) 846-5882

<http://ashe.ces.ncsu.edu/>

Distributed in furtherance of the acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914. North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State University commit themselves to positive action to secure equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, sex, age, veteran status or disability. In addition, the two Universities welcome all persons without regard to sexual orientation. North Carolina State University, North Carolina A&T State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments cooperating.

The use of brand names in this publication does not imply endorsement by the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service of the products or services named nor discrimination against similar products or services not mentioned.

Marketing Plan

How will you sell your lambs/kids this year? It is important to know how much it costs to maintain your ewe/doe and to know your breakeven cost.

Now is a good time to start on your financial goals for the year. As the day gets dark early and lambing/kidding may have not begun, take time for this important step in your operation. As you gather information for tax preparation, determine how much feed you are providing for your livestock and break it down per animal and per weight of each animal.

How much per pound do you need to earn? Did you sell for that last year? How can you meet that goal this year or in the upcoming years? You are focused on providing for your livestock, so take time to focus on your financial goals and analyze records in order to make decisions.

Updating Soil Reports

The Livestock Program at Ashe County Cooperative Extension is focusing on updating all soil reports this year. I am looking forward to coming to your farm for a visit and to take soil samples on your pastures.

This is a completely voluntary and free service. The soil report will tell what nutrients, if any, are lacking in the soil. If you have questions on why your grass has been short or hasn't produced as much hay as in the past, a soil report can help answer those questions. A soil report can help determine the correct amount of fertilizer and lime to apply.

I will be working to schedule soil samples in these areas during the following months:

March – Grassy Creek
April – Crumpler
May – Jefferson
June – West Jefferson
July – Fleetwood
August – Lansing / Warrensville
September – Creston
October – Laurel Springs / Todd



Please note if you are looking to fertilize this spring, we can schedule an earlier visit. This is only a recommended schedule to cut down traveling costs and time.

Please call the NC Cooperative Extension, Ashe County Center at (336) 846-5850 to schedule a visit. I look forward to scheduling a visit with you soon.

Sincerely,

Micah Orfield
Extension Agent, Agriculture

NC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

N.C. A&T

NC STATE

Lambing/Kidding Schedule

January

- Slowly increase nutrition to one pound per expected lamb.

February

- Booster annual CD&T vaccine to ewes
- Prepare all needed materials for lambing/kidding
- Prepare lambing/kidding pens

March and April

- Lambing/kidding
- Provide fresh water, hay and grain to new mothers
- Allow bonding time
- Deworm new mothers
- Tag lambs/kids
- Provide a clean pen or pasture

May

- Vaccinate older lambs for CD&T
- Remember to booster for CD&T

Possible Needed Materials

1. Antibiotic
2. Dewormer
3. Syringes/Needles
4. Tags/Tagger/Tag Pen
5. OB Gloves/OB Lubricant
6. Water Buckets/Feed Pans
7. Bottles/Nipples
8. Colostrum
9. Formula/Milk for Orphans
10. Drench packed with nutrients
(for weak ewes/does or lambs/kids)
11. Halter
12. Old Towels

Be Aware

Pregnancy Toxemia - The main cause is low blood sugar and can be triggered by emotional stress, inclement weather, and ewes/does carrying more than one lamb/kid.

Prolapse - There are three different types of prolapse: rectal, vaginal, and uterine. In many cases rectal and vaginal prolapse are not severe and the ewe/doe will survive however, you may not want to keep her on your farm. Uterine prolapse is more severe and needs to be addressed as soon as possible.

Weak Lambs/Kids - Can be the result of a difficult birth or low nutrition during the pregnancy. It's important to do regular checks during the lambing/kidding season to ensure weak lambs/kids are addressed. Proper management can increase the survival rate.

Mycoplasma - This bacterium can cause pneumonia and arthritis. Signs to watch for include depressed lamb/kids, one ear droopy, swollen joints and pneumonia like symptoms.

Orphaned Lambs/Kids - There are times the ewe/doe will not accept a lamb/kid once it is born. If multiple lambs/kids the mother may not realize there is another. It's important to do regular checks during the lambing/kidding season to ensure that these lambs/kids are also addressed. Proper management can increase the survival rate for these lambs/kids.

Low Milk Production - This may be due to low nutrients available during the pregnancy, especially late gestation. Always ensure that your hay has been tested so you know what nutrients may be lacking.

Clostridium C&D (Overeating Disease) - Affects young animals as they begin to increase their grain intake. Clostridium perfringens C&D are strains of bacteria found in the small and large intestines, and triggered when diets change suddenly. Many times symptoms won't be noticed, until it's too late.

